

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-22 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-13 are amended, and claims 4 and 14-21 are canceled. Claims 1-3 and 5-13 are presently under consideration. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 should be rejoined and allowed upon allowance of claim 1. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 5-6 contain allowable subject matter.

**I. CLAIMS 1-13 SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF
35 U.S.C. §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-3 and 5-13 have been amended in conformity with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. THE CLAIMS DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER

A. The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 7 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,772,817 to Yen et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yen fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited in independent claim 1. In particular, Yen fails to disclose a package sealing method including providing a case which houses a product and has an opening surface, and a lid for covering the opening surface, which is made of a material that is transparent to a laser beam having a predetermined wavelength, as recited in independent claim 1.

Instead, Yen relates to a method of assembling an optical pellicle including a pellicle frame 12 (made of metal, plastic, etc.) and a pellicle membrane 14 (made of polymer film) with intervention of an adhesive 19. See, e.g., the Abstract, Fig. 2 and col. 4, lines 8-41. The adhesive is irradiated with a CO₂ laser (having wavelength of 10.6 μm) through the

membrane to heat up the adhesive and membrane. See, e.g., col. 5, lines 40-50. The membrane made of polymer materially absorbs infrared light of the laser, and the adhesive having the same polymeric structure as the membrane also absorbs the infrared light. Specifically, Yen discloses that the pellicle frame 12 and pellicle membrane 14 are bonded together by heating and melting the adhesive and membrane, respectively.

According to the claimed invention, a bonding member is laid on a case and is irradiated with a laser beam having predetermined a wavelength through a lid which is transparent to the laser beam. The bonding member which absorbs the laser beam is heated and melted to bond the case (made of ceramics) and lid, while the lid which does not absorb the laser beam is not heated and melted. Moreover, the lid transparent to the laser beam, having the predetermined wavelength, is used to efficiently increase energy utilization of the laser beam in heating the bonding member.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Yen fails to anticipate the subject matter of independent claim 1. Accordingly, Yen also fails to anticipate the subject matter of claims 2-3 and 7-12, which depend from claim 1. Withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is therefore respectfully solicited.

B. The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,263,888 to Ishihara et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ishihara fails to teach or suggest all the features recited in independent claims 1 and 13. In particular, Ishihara fails to disclose irradiating the bonding member with the laser beam through the lid so that the bonding member is melted to bond the case and the lid to each other with intervention of the bonding member, as recited in claims 1 and 13.

Instead, Ishihara discloses a method in which a pair of glass substrates 1a, 1b are bonded by a sealing member 3 (made of a photo setting resin) laid between the substrates, which is hardened by irradiation with an ultra-violet light. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 22-26 and

Fig. 3a. Ishihara absolutely fails to teach, disclose or even suggest irradiating the bonding member with the laser beam as recited in independent claims 1 and 13.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Ishihara fails to anticipate the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 13, and claims 2-3 which depend from independent claim 1. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully solicited.

C. The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,420,649 to Kahl et al.; and rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kahl in view of U.S. Patent 5,729,963 to Bird. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Kahl fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited in independent claims 1 and 13. In particular, Kahl fails to teach or suggest that a bonding member is irradiated with a laser beam through a lid which is transparent to the laser beam, as recited in independent claim 1.

Instead, Kahl merely discloses a sealing compound 21 that is curable by heat or irradiation (UV, IR, X-ray or laser). See, e.g., col. 4, lines 57-67. However, Kahl absolutely fails to teach or suggest that the sealing compound is capable of being a bonding member which is irradiated with a laser beam through the transparent lid, as recited in the independent claims.

Bird fails to cure the deficiencies of Kahl discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 13.

For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Kahl nor Bird, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all the features recited in independent claims 1 and 13, and claims 2-4 which depend from independent claim 1. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully solicited.

D. The Office Action rejects claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yen in view of U.S. Patent 5,877,874 to Rosenberg. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Yen fails to teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1. Rosenberg also fails to cure the deficiencies of Yen discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

Instead, Rosenberg is directed to a multiplexed hologram 10 (a kind of a diffraction optical element) which is a solar radiation collection device. A plurality of holograms which are different in spacing, and angle of fringes, are recorded in multiple in the multiplexed hologram. The plurality of holograms operate most effectively with solar radiation which is incidentally reflected on the holograms at different angles, so as to collect diffracted light into a specific direction. Moreover, the multiplexed hologram arrangement is designed to operate for incident light having a wide range of wavelength.

According to the claimed invention, a diffraction light pattern generates a hologram (a diffraction optical element) that is projected on a bonding member through a transparent lid. The shape of the diffraction light pattern can be arranged in accordance with the shape and size of a bonded portion. The structure of the hologram, according to claim 1, is designed to operate for incident light having a certain wavelength. Rosenberg fails to teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, the Office Action has not established a prima facie case of obviousness, as the applied references failed to teach or suggest all of the subject matter of independent claim 1, and therefore claims 8-11. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully solicited.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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